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loose general statements. We wonder just what the author had in mind when he wrote (p. 188): "But with the accession of William, in 1066, the state took on its final form, as had the German and the French states in the preceding century." The statements about the knowledge of Latin (pp. 8 and 24), and the contradictory utterances relative to Luther and freedom of thought (pp. 430, 431, 432, 440, 441), seem to indicate some mental confusion. Possibly the carelessness is most evident in the index. Titles are admitted or excluded in an entirely arbitrary manner. On p. 322 the duties of the three officers, baillis, sénéchals and enquêteurs are discussed; only the first is in the index. The Synod at Bourges (p. 409) is admitted; the Diet at Mainz (p. 410) is omitted. Three men are mentioned (p. 428) as having influenced Luther; Gerson is in the index, Staupitz and St. Bernard are not. A large number of similar cases will be noted by anyone who uses the book.

There are occasional mistakes. Professor Adams is evidently not familiar with Mr. H. C. Lea's discussion of the Donation of Constantine and of the Pseudo-Isidorian Decretals. He falls into error (pp. 233-34) about the dates of both and the purpose of the latter. Simony did not include lay investitures as stated at p. 243. The two subjects, although intimately connected, were treated separately. It is depressing to find that Professor Adams gravely repeats (p. 269) the stereotyped statement that the crusades ended in 1270.

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Public Assistance of the Poor in France. By EMILY GREENE BALCH. Pp. 179. Publications of the American Economic Association, Vol. VIII. Nos. 4 and 5. Price, \$1.00. Baltimore: 1893.

Miss Balch has done a good service for students of social institutions in the preparation of this short but comprehensive account of the public charities of France. The merit of the book lies not merely in its clearness, accuracy and brevity, but especially in the perfect fairness preserved in a field where party spirit and sectarian prejudices have made impartiality difficult. In this respect the present essay is in marked contrast with the report upon French Charities, by Hubert Valleroux, just published in the "Proceedings of the International Congress of Charities, Correction and Philanthropy."

As the author states, the present constitution of public assistance in France can hardly be well understood without some study of its development. The first seventy-five pages of the essay present a brief history of French charity from the ecclesiastical decrees in the time

of Clovis to the reorganization of social institutions by the first Napoleon. In the many interesting glimpses of social history perhaps the most striking features are the remarkable development of the mediæval wayside hospitals, the great institutions and centralized system of Louis XIV., the sweeping innovations of the revolution and the unsuccessful efforts of one monarch after another to repress the army of beggars.

The legal claim of a pauper to relief, which has led to so many abuses in England and in some American cities, is not recognized in France except in the case of the dangerously insane and certain classes of children. "The tendency to take a somewhat socialistic view of public charity, and to seek to make it almost a government monopoly by putting hindrances in the way of private initiative . . . is generally more than counteracted by the traditional horror of anything approaching the English system, by the dread of all State interference felt by the 'economists,' and by the jealousy of the Catholics who would like to keep charity as far as possible in the hands of the church." P. 79. Yet charity in France seems to be more subject to public control and the control is more centralized than in England or America. The official *bureaux de bienfaisance*, assuming control of charitable bequests, and even of church collections, present a contrast to the prevalent American system of granting public appropriations to private charities.

The care of destitute children is especially noteworthy for its thorough organization under the placing-out system. The description of provident schemes, and of the government monopoly of pawn-shops may prove suggestive to American reformers.

In undertaking to pass a final judgment upon the French system of public assistance as a whole, the author recognizes the difficulty of tracing social results and their causes and of making international comparisons. In many parts of France the provision of relief is inadequate, but, whatever may be the cause, the French poor are more thrifty than the English. In both England and France the proportion of paupers to the population seems to be decreasing.

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The Resources and Development of Mexico. By HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT. Pp. xii, 325. Price \$4.50. San Francisco: The Bancroft Company, 1893.

This book cannot be classed as historical or economic, but it contains much information which is useful to both the historian and the economist. While a more scientific investigation from a sociological point